



The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

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Columbus Day

Columbus Day commemorates the explorer's arrival in the New World. The holiday is also a celebration of Italian-American cultural heritage.



A federal holiday observed the second Monday in October, Columbus Day commemorates Christopher Columbus's landing in the New World in 1492. A number of nations celebrate the day, including the Bahamas, Spain, and much of Latin

America. In 1971, Congress moved the U.S. holiday from October 12 to the second Monday in October to afford workers a long holiday weekend. In the United States, Columbus Day is typically a celebration of Italian and Italian-American cultural heritage, Columbus generally being considered a native of Genoa, Italy.

Columbus Day Timeline

1792 - The first celebration commemorating Christopher Columbus's landing in the New World takes place in New York City on the 300th anniversary of his arrival. It was organized by the Society of St. Tammany, or the Columbian Order, widely known as Tammany Hall.

1860s - Italian immigrants in New York (1866) and in San Francisco (1869) commemorate Columbus Day as a celebration of their ethnic heritage. The celebration of Columbus—an Italian who sailed under the Spanish flag—remained a celebration limited to the Italian community for many decades. Most Americans viewed their history as stemming from Britain, and did not identify with earlier explorations of the New World.

1892 - President Benjamin Harrison issues a presidential proclamation on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage, urging Americans to commemorate the day as a holiday.



The Pledge of Allegiance is recited publicly for the first time during the celebration.

1905 - Colorado becomes the first state to officially observe the holiday.

1937 - President Franklin Roosevelt proclaims Oct. 12 as Columbus Day.

1968 - President Lyndon B. Johnson declares Columbus Day a federal public holiday, to be celebrated on the second Monday in October, rather than on Oct. 12. The new Uniform Monday Holiday Act goes into effect in 1971.

The exhibitions [1492: An Ongoing Voyage](#) and [Exploring the Early Americas](#) are available on the Library of Congress Web site.

Read more on U.S. holidays at: http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays.html



Columbus monument in Genoa.

MONDAY MOVIES

As part of its movie series, an English language film is shown at the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center every third Monday of the month. A 30 minute English-language discussion follows each movie. Upcoming movies will be shown on October 19, November 16 and December 21 at 15:00pm.



On **September 28**, the film **Charlie Wilson's War (2007)** will be screened. The drama is based on a Texas congressman, Charlie Wilson, and his covert dealings in Afghanistan, where his efforts to assist rebels in their war with the Soviets have some unforeseen and long-reaching effects.

Please contact: ircyerevan@usa.am if you plan to attend the movie series.

What's New at the American Corners?

Fourth Annual American Corners Conference Prepares Coordinators for Active Role in Social Media



Workshop participants smile in a group picture

From August 18-20, 2009, the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan hosted the fourth annual American Corners in Armenia Workshop in the town of Dilijan. Implemented by U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center (IRC) Director Nerses Hayrapetyan, the conference included the participation of American Corner coordinators from all four of Armenia's American Corners, information technology (IT) specialists, library directors, and assistant librarians from host library institutions.

Vienna-based U.S. Information Resource Officer (IRO) Catherine Marsicek and Hayrapetyan opened the workshop. Hayrapetyan then provided a review of American Corner activities over the past year. American Corner coordinators from Gyumri, Vanadzor, and Kapan presented annual reports about their activities. Yerevan American Corner host library director Hasmik Karapetyan discussed Yerevan-based activities.



Fourth annual workshop: review of American Corner activities over the past year.

Workshop training, conducted by U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section Program Specialist Avetik Petrosyan, focused on audio and video editing for broadcast and web oriented applications. Participants learned how to better utilize their digital video and audio equipment, state of the art technology furnished by U.S. Government funds, in order to create video files and post program information and materials to American Corners web pages and YouTube. Internet usage rates in Armenia are low, but growing quickly, and the American Corners now stand to be on the cutting edge in incorporating new technologies and social media into outreach efforts.

U.S. Embassy Assistant Public Affairs Officer Susan Bridenstine delivered a presentation on how to write a good highlight, which discussed in detail helpful hints on English grammar, writing styles, and effectively advertising Corner activities. After reviewing several highlights, participants broke into small groups and wrote their own highlights, incorporating many of the tips shared by Bridenstine. On August 19, American Corner coordinators and librarians participated in a live video web chat with Washington, guided by Marsicek. The IRO also gave an introduction to using web chats in Corner programming. During the one hour session, Program Officer Mark Betka conducted a short demonstration of CoNx web chats and Washington-based IRO Barbara Conaty spoke about different American Corners around the world. Marsicek also discussed professional development issues and new resources for Corner programming.

Other covered topics included "U.S. and International Holiday Programming" and "Using EBSCO Databases." A "Fish Bowl Discussion" also generated lively debate on various aspects of daily American Corner activities, including how to find a native English speaker to volunteer for possible programs, how to recruit new members for Corners, how to deal with local media, and how to organize a documentary film program.

American Corner coordinators and all other participants took away many new ideas for activities that will be implemented in the coming year.



Participants broke into small groups and wrote their own highlights

Education and Scholarships

Understanding American University Life



U.S. Embassy intern Peter Picz led a discussion about student life at U.S. universities

On September 2, 2009, within the framework of the "Americans at the American Corner" lecture series, the

Vanadzor American Corner hosted U.S. Embassy intern Peter Picz, who led a discussion about student life at U.S. universities.

The main focus of Picz's presentation was on the University of Michigan, where he is now studying. Picz talked in brief about the history of the university, the structure of its departments, and the admissions process. Then, the speaker presented to the audience the colorful panorama of university life, touching upon the university's football team and its traditions, learning, friendship and competition, student

parties, and job hunting. Peter spoke about lecturers, roommates, and family traditions, thus providing the audience with a wide picture of the American student's every day activities.

After the lecture, the participants, over 15 students from local universities, asked various questions ranging from matriculation costs to dress codes, and shared with him their own, Armenian university experiences.

Both the speaker and the participants appreciated the added insight.

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM



The Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America is pleased to announce the annual competition for **Fulbright Scholarships** in the United States for the 2010-2011 academic year.

"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at least to live in peace and friendship."

J. William Fulbright

The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program awards grants to foreign scholars to conduct post-doctoral research at U.S. universities for an academic year or term. The Fulbright Program was named after Senator J. William Fulbright from Arkansas, who proposed the program in 1946 "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries. All grants are approved by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship

Board (12 members), which is appointed by the President of the United States.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

- Armenian citizenship and residency
- Evidence of employment in the Republic of Armenia
- Ph.D.
- Proficiency in English
- Completed online application
- References
- Good health and physical condition

ELIGIBLE FIELDS ARE:

- Political Science, Economics, Social Science
- International Relations, Journalism and Law
- American Studies (History, Literature, Society & Culture of the United States)
- Chemistry, Public Health and Medicine

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Interested applicants must complete an online application on the <https://apply.embark.com/student/>

fulbright/scholars/30/ site. Please register by creating a user name and a password, and proceed with the application as prompted by the application. Please save your data after completing each page. After saving a page, you will be able to log off and return to your application later. The applicants will be able to send online requests for recommendation letters to their recommenders. Please submit your online application **ONLY** when the information is complete and the supplementary documents are obtained. Once you submit your application, you will not have access to it and will not be able to view it.

Read more at: http://armenia.usembassy.gov/fulbright_program.html

For assistance please apply to Anahit Khachatryan, PAS Cultural Assistant at: khachatraa@state.gov

Deadline for submission: November 15, 2009.

EDUCATORS CALENDAR 2009

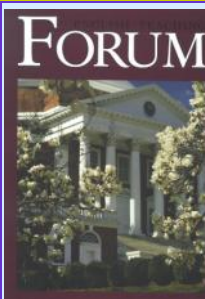
There's something worth commemorating every day. Find fun and educationally relevant holidays, events, and celebrations for each day. Visit: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/>

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Victory over Japan (V-J) Day (1945)
- 3 Treaty of Paris Ended American Revolution (1783)
- 4 Los Angeles Founded (1781)
- 7 Labor Day
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 9 Name "United States of America" Adopted (1776)
- 11 Patriot Day; Massive Terrorist Attack on three American Cities (2001)
- 13 Int'l Chocolate Day
- 16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer; General Motors Founded (1908)
- 17 U.S. Constitution Completed & Signed (1787)
- 18 World Water Monitoring Day
- 21 Independence Day of Armenia
International Day of Peace
- 22 World Car-free Day
- 24 World Maritime Day (1978)
- 25 Bill of Rights Created (1789)
- 26 First Televised Presidential Debate (1960)
- 27 World Tourism Day; First Skyscraper Opened in NYC (1932)
- 30 Int'l Translation Day (1953)

OCTOBER

- 3 East and West Germany United (1990)
- 4 Sputnik I Launched into Orbit (1957)
- 5 World Teacher's Day
- 6 Thomas Edison Showed First Motion Picture (1889)
- 9 Washington Monument Opened (1888)
- 9 John Lennon's Birthday (1940)
- 11 First Staffed Apollo Mission Launched (1968)
- 12 Columbus Day
- 13 Navy Day
- 13 Cornerstone of White House Laid (1792)
- 14 Peace Corps Founded (1961)
- 14 Martin Luther King Jr. Awarded Nobel Peace Prize (1964)
- 15 Nelson Mandela Awarded Nobel Peace Prize (1993)
- 16 Dictionary Day
- 18 Alaska Purchased from Russia (1867)
- 21 Thomas Edison Invented Light bulb (1879)
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Microwave Oven Debuted (1955)
- 27 New York City's First Subway Opened (1904)
- 28 Statue of Liberty Dedicated (1886)
- 31 Halloween



ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM

English Teaching Forum, published by the United States Department of State for teachers of English, is distributed abroad by U.S. Embassies. These journals

contain ready-to-use lesson plans and are suitable for students at the intermediate level. Each chapter contains background information, classroom-ready activities, and related resources and references. The English Teaching Forum is published four times a year, in January, April, July, and October.

In 2009, the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section subscribed to 300 copies to support the English language programs in Armenia. The Forum is widely used by AELTA members and English teachers not only in Yerevan, but in many places in Armenia. According to our patrons feedback it is a very useful addition to their English language programs.

The journal is also available online at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/forum/>

English Learners Corner

Phrasal verbs and other multi-word verbs in English

Phrasal verbs are a really important part of the English language, especially for spoken English. Phrasal verbs are part of a large group of verbs called "multi-word verbs". Multi-word verbs, including phrasal verbs, are very common, especially in spoken English. A multi-word verb is a verb like "pick up", "turn on" or "get on with." For convenience, many people refer to all multi-word verbs as phrasal verbs. These verbs consist of a basic verb + another word or words. The other word(s) can be prepositions and/or adverbs. The two or three words that make up multi-word verbs form a short "phrase" - which is why these verbs are often all called "phrasal verbs".

Read more at: http://www.englishclub.com/ref/Phrasal_Verbs/index.htm



When was the first dictionary made?

The western tradition of dictionary-making began with the Greeks when changes in the language made many words in the literature unintelligible to readers. During the Middle Ages, when Latin was the language of learning, dictionaries of Latin words were compiled. The first dictionary of English words appeared in 1604 -- Robert Cawdry's Table Alphabeticall (A table alphabetical of hard usual English words (1604). Early dictionaries were generally small, defined "hard" words, and were made by men in their leisure time as a hobby. John Kersey the Younger is regarded as the first professional lexicographer whose introductory work, A New English Dictionary appeared in 1702.



Quotations about Libraries

Information is the currency of democracy.
Thomas JEFFERSON (1743-1826)

*Would you like to study in the United States?
If so, you should attend the*

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION FAIR

**Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
of the U.S. Department of State**
and administered by *American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)*

When?

**October 23, 2009
13:00 – 17:00**

Where?

American University of Armenia
40 Baghramyan Avenue, Yerevan, Armenia

This one-day event is open to the public free of charge and offers a variety of information on U.S. study opportunities. Learn more about the U.S. education system, the application and selection process, and computer-based testing (TOEFL iBT, GRE and GMAT).

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives of U.S. universities and several organizations that administer exchange programs. In addition, a number of American-style universities in Europe and Asia will be present. Participants can also take part in panel discussions with returned graduates of U.S. academic programs and institutions.

Free Entrance

For more information, contact the American Councils Educational Advising Center
Baghramyan 1, apt. 1, 0019, Yerevan, Armenia
Tel/Fax: (37410) 54-40-12-, 54-40-15
E-mail: eac@americancouncils.am
<http://americancouncils.am>

EJOURNAL USA: "ANATOMY OF A JURY TRIAL"

Inside This Publication

Volume 14, Number 7, ISSN 1948-4399 (online)

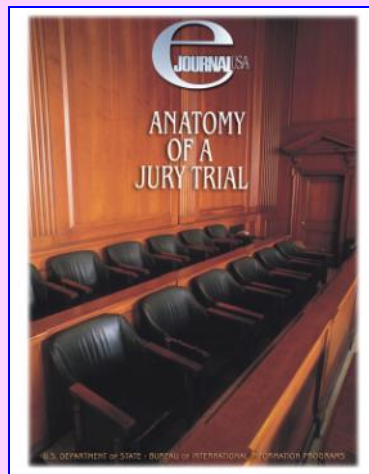
In *12 Angry Men*, a classic Hollywood film of the 1950s, the deliberations inside a jury room take center stage. Henry Fonda, as juror number 8, holds out under pressure against conviction of a teenage Hispanic boy charged with killing his father, slowly converting the other jurors — the wise and foolish, the old and young, the compassionate and bigoted — through tense, thrilling deliberations to a verdict of not guilty.

Real-life jury trials are not usually so dramatic or inspiring, but they still have a lot of merit, by most accounts.

Juries — usually groups of 6 or 12 ordinary citizens — provide a crucial service for their fellow citizens. Just as in medieval England, where they got started, juries prevent governments from pursuing oppressive prosecutions.

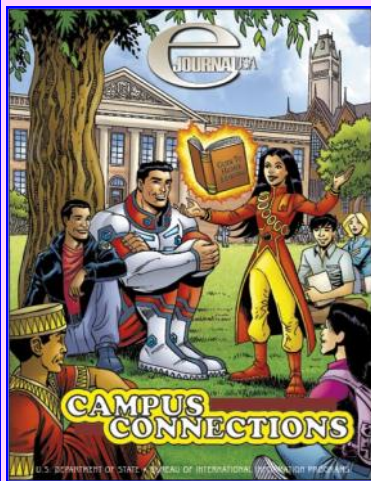
Here is a striking fact: In their lifetimes, 29 percent of adult Americans have served on a jury. And, arguably, they are better citizens for it.

The URL for the journal is: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0709.html>



EJOURNAL USA: "CAMPUS CONNECTIONS"

Inside This Publication



Volume 14 / Number 8, ISSN 1948-4399 (online)

A globalized economy makes business and employment spill across national boundaries, so an education abroad is likely to make a young person better prepared for the world's future. Almost double the numbers of students travel abroad for an education today as compared with 20 years ago. Campus Connections examines the international study experience and its influence on individual growth.

Cover: Specially designed by Teshkeel Media for eJournalUSA, our cover features three characters from the comic book series THE 99. The creator of THE 99, Naif Al-Mutawa, is interviewed in the article "Superheroes Arise from a Life in Two Nations."

Cover Art: Ron Wagner Color: Steve Buccellato Lettering: Comcraft's Albert Deschesne THE 99 are copyright © 2009 Teshkeel Media Group

The URL for the journal is: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0809.html>

Printed copies of the e-journal are available in the Information Resource Center and American Corners in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

Upcoming eJournals

Climate Change Perspectives - September

The Supreme Court – October

Roots of Innovation – November

Development and Good Governance – December

The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 13:00 to 18:00.
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